



3/29/2011

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
Land Use and Environmental Services Agency  
Code Enforcement

**Attention Builders!!!!**  
**RULES FOR SMOKE ALARMS**

As of January 1, 2008 any addition, alteration, repair to any dwelling unit or when one or more sleeping rooms are added to an existing dwelling unit the dwelling shall be equipped with smoke alarms located as required for new dwellings. This includes but is not limited to kitchen and bath remodels finishing a basement adding a room or garage addition

**SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS**

- A smoke alarm shall be installed in the following locations.
- In each sleeping room.
- Outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.
- On each additional story of the dwelling, including basements. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.
- All smoke alarms shall be hard wired and interconnected (see exceptions below).
- An electrical permit is required for installation of smoke alarms.

**EXCEPTIONS**

- Interconnection and hard-wiring of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where the alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure. Smoke alarm locations are required per R313.2, but may be battery powered and shall be designed to emit a recurring signal when batteries are low and need to be replaced.
- Work involving exterior surfaces of dwellings such as the replacement of roofing or siding, or the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of a deck or porch is exempt from the requirements of this section.

For any additional questions that you might have please contact RTAC at (704)-432-7822